

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 02660 240425Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 100269

R 230928Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7103

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 2660

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, JA

SUBJ: FONOFF AGAIN REQUESTS EARLY CONSULTATIONS ON KOREA QUESTION
IN UN

REF: TOKYO 369

SUMMARY: FONOFF REQUESTS EARLY "BILATERAL EXCHANGE OR VIEWS IN DEPTH" ON STRATEGY AND TACTICS OUTSIDE MIGHT ADOPT IN 1976 UNGA DEBATE ON KOREA. IT PROPOSES DISCUSSION BETWEEN DCM AND UN BUREAU DIRECTOR GENERAL AT LATEST IN WEEK PRIOR TO CORE GROUP MEETING, AND PREFERABLY IN PARALLEL WITH OUR AND THEIR BILATERAL TALKS WITH ROK LATE THIS MONTH. FONOFF EXPECTS CORE GROUP TO MEET DURING WEEK OF MARCH 8. IF POSSIBLE PRIOR TO THAT TIME, EMBASSY BELIEVES FRANK REVIEW OF OPTIONS AS JAPANESE PROPOSE WOULD BE WORTHWHILE AND IMPORTANT AS AN INDICATION OF OUR REGARD FOR JAPANESE ROLE IN KOREA DEBATE. END SUMMARY.

1. UN POLITICAL DIVDIR MADE ON FEB 18 ANOTHER, AND UNUSUALLY DIRECT, PITCH FOR EARLY BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON STRATEGY AND TACTICS IN 1976 UNGA KOREA DEBATE. HE SAID FONOFF IS BEGINNING FORMAL OPTIONS STUDY ON MATTER IN ANTICIPATION OF CORE GROUP MEETING WEEK OF MARCH 8, A DATE EVIDENTLY SUGGESTED BY CANADIANS. KOBAYASHI SAID
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UN BUREAU DIRGEN THEREFORE VERY MUCH WISHES "BILATERAL

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN DEPTH" WITH DCM SHOESMITH AT EARLY OPPORTUNITY.

2. KOBAYASHI SAID HE WELL UNDERSTOOD OUR DESIRE TO ALIGN

VIEWS WITH ROK BEFORE CORE GROUP IS CONVENED, AND ADDED THAT HE IS GOING TO SEOUL WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23 FOR JAPAN-ROK DISCUSSIONS ON SAME SUBJECT. SINCE JAPANESE INTEND THAT THEIR POLICY ON MATTER BE ENTIRELY COMPATIBLE WITH OURS, KOBAYASHI CONTINUED, FONOFF THINKS IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT WE AND THEY BENEFIT FROM CANDID EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, TENTATIVE THOUGH THEY MAY BE.

3. EMBOFF MADE IT CLEAR THAT EMBASSY PRESENTLY IN NO POSITION TO DISCUSS KOREA QUESTIONS IN DEPTH. REGARDING PROPOSAL THAT OKAWA AND SHOESMITH MEET NEXT WEEK, HE SAID DCM WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR AND RELAY FONOFF'S THOUGHTS, BUT UNABLE TO PROMISE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

4. KOBAYASHI THEN REITERATED THAT SOME DISCUSSION IN DEPTH, AT LATEST IN WEEK PRIOR TO CORE GROUP MEETING, HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO FONOFF. AS INDICATION OF ITEMS HE THOUGHT OUGHT TO BE DISCUSSED, HE TICKED OFF THE FOLLOWING: A) REACTIONS TO ROK FONMIN PARK'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT DUCKING UN FIGHT THIS YEAR: B) IF ROUGHLY SAME EXERCISE AT LAST YEAR, WHAT ELEMENTS SHOULD GO IN FRIENDLY RESOLUTION? C) TO WHAT EXTENT MIGHT "INTERMEDIARY COUNTRIES," I.E., "GROUP OF 13," BE UTILIZED: D) HOW MIGHT WE BEST PACKAGE OUR "READINESS FOR DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTLY CONCERNED PARTIES?"

5. COMMENT: FONOFF CLEARLY WANTS TO E IN ON CONSULTATIONS AT EARLY FORMATIVE STAGE THIS YEAR. EMBASSY SUSPECTS ALSO THAT UN BUREAU WOULD FIND CONSULTATIONS USEFUL AMMUNITION INDEBATE WITHIN FONOFF. JAPANESE TENTATIVELY PREPARED TO PLAY MORE VIGOROUS SUPPORTIVE ROLE THIS YEAR, BUT EXPECT AS QUID PRO QUO TO BE CLOSELY CONSULTED THROUGHOUT. FAILURE TO DO SO COULD INOUR VIEW LESSEN JAPANESE WILLINGNESS TO WORK HARD FOR OUR SIDE. IF TIMING OF OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH OK
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PERMITS, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WE ENDEAVOR TO MEET JAPANESE REQUEST BY ARRANGING FOR CONSULTATIONS IN TOKYO OR WASHINGTON/NEW YORK PRIOR TO CORE GROUP SESSION. OKAWA IS CONCENTRATING ON GETTING NPT THROUGH DIET: HENCE JAPANESE PREFER TO TALK IN TOKYO.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNGA RESOLUTIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TOKYO02660
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760068-0293
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760222/aaaaaswf.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 TOKYO 369
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FONOFF AGAIN REQUESTS EARLY CONSULTATIONS ON KOREA QUESTION IN UN
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, JA, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006